

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2611

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELGRADE 1966

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR YOU BU

SUBJ: BILIC LAYS IT ON THE LINE RE WWII

REF: BELGRADE 1936

1. IN AN APR 20 SPEECH AT VROPOLJE, CROATIA, LCY CC EXEC COMMITTEE MEMBER AND EXCOM CADRE CHIEF JURE BILIC BLUNTLY SPELLED OUT THE YUGOSLAV PERCEPTION OF THE MOTIVE BEHIND ATTEMPTS TO BELITTLE YUGOSLAV PARTISAN PARTICIPATION IN WWII.

2. SPEAKING AT THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY CEREMONY UNVEILING A MEMORIAL TO FALLEN COMBATANTS, BILIC PAID TRIBUTE TO OTHERS IN THE ANTI-HITLERIST

COALITION, "PARTICULARLY THE SOVIET UNION, WITH THE GREATEST NUMBER OF VICTIMS". BUT, BILIC CONTINUED "WE WANT OUR OWN VICTIMS NEVER TO BE FORGOTTEN, NOT IN ORDER TO THINK PERMANENTLY OF THE PAST, BUT BECAUSE OF OUR PRESENT AND FUTURE."

3. AFTER TRACTING THE ROLE OF THE BULGARIAN FATHERLAND FRONT TROOPS WHICH "COMRADE TITO AND THE SUPREME COMMAND ALLOWED" TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SOUTH-EAST PARTS OF YUGOSLAVIA, BILIC ASKED  
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"WHO ARE THEY, TRYING NOW TO USE HISTORICAL TRUTHS FOR

POLITICAL SPECULATIONS?" ASKING RHETORICALLY THE MEANING OF "WE HAVE SET YOU FREE" (A REFERENCE TO BULGARIAN CLAIMS TO HAVE LIBERATED LARGE PARTS OF YUGOSLAVIA), BILIC SAID "THIS MEANS THAT TOMORROW WE HAVE A RIGHT TO YOU; THIS MEANS THAT TOMORROW THEY HAVE THE RIGHT TO RETURN, TOMORROW PARTICULARLY WHEN THE EXISTENCE OF A PEOPLE OR NATION IS BEING DENIED, IN THE CASE OF MACEDONIA AND THE MACEDONIANS." BILIC CONCLUDED THAT "WE CANNOT UNDERSTAND THE SLOGAN THEREFORE IN A WAY OTHER THAN AS A CLAIM TO OUR TERRITORY."

4. THIS IS AS CLEAR A PUBLIC EXPOSITION AS WE HAVE SEEN OF WHAT REALLY UNDERLIES THE YUGOSLAV IRE OVER THIS ISSUE. AND SINCE THEY BELIEVE THE BULGARIANS ACT AS A SURROGATE FOR THE SOVIETS IN THIS MATTER, BILIC'S ADMONITION THAT VICTIMS SHOULD BE REMEMBERED NOT BECAUSE OF THE PAST BUT BECAUSE OF "OUR PRESENT AND FUTURE" IS A CLEAR STATEMENT THAT THE LEADERSHIP DOES NOT VIEW THIS AS AN HISTORICAL DEBATE.

MILLER

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## Message Attributes

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